

The War Fifty Years Ago

Battle of Chickamauga, Ga.—Contending Armies, Led by General Bragg and General Rosecrans, Fight For the Chattanooga Road—A Bold Lunge by General Longstreet's Troops Destroys the Federal Right Wing—The Left Wing Under General George H. Thomas Holds Its Ground—Terrific Conflict on Horseshoe Ridge—Fighting Against Odds, Thomas Saves His Army by Putting in His Reserves.

By Capt. GEORGE L. KILMER, late U. S. V.

THE third week in September is the anniversary week of the crisis in the Federal campaign against Chattanooga, Tenn., which culminated in the fierce battle near Chickamauga creek on the 20th and retreat of the Federals into Chattanooga. When the campaign opened General Braxton Bragg's Confederate army was holding the town. The Federal Army of the Cumberland set out to capture it, but its leader, General W. S. Rosecrans, instead of attacking the stronghold direct marched around on a wide circuit to tempt his foe into an open field fight. Bragg marched out of Chattanooga southward, and the two armies played hide and seek among the mountains until Rosecrans was on the inside of the circle, with the Confederates cut off from Chattanooga.

General Bragg discovered his plight when the Chickamauga creek lay between him and the foe and Chattanooga. He sent one corps across the creek on the 18th of September. These troops showed themselves to some Federal outposts who belonged to the corps of General George H. Thomas.

Thomas Opens the Big Battle. Federal scouts told of one brigade that had come across the Chickamauga alone. The bridge had been destroyed

and had not sent McCook away beyond recall. Thomas had placed at least a brigade on every road leading from the numerous fords of the Chickamauga to Rossville. Rosecrans ordered back two divisions of McCook's column to aid Thomas and also called up three divisions of reserves under General T. L. Crittenden. This massing of troops around Thomas made his line the pivot of the great battle to come. Half a score of little fights, starting with a brigade and drawing in a division, took place Sept. 19, and that night Bragg's army was lined up west of the Chickamauga. General Leonidas Polk commanded the right wing and General James Longstreet, from the Army of Northern Virginia, the left. General D. H. Hill, another of General Robert E. Lee's marshals, commanded a corps of western troops. General S. B. Buckner of Donelson fame led a corps.

Federals Behind Barricades. When morning dawned on the 20th Thomas' troops had completed rude breastworks of rails and logs in front of a state road running through the battlefield parallel to the creek and connecting with the Rossville road three miles away. A road from the creek led into this at the point in the line held by General Baird's division. With a prelude of skirmish fire two

was ordered to fill the vacancy and left its place in McCook's line to do so. It was all a mistake, for Bragg's division lay in the woods covering that gap. The new gap made by the withdrawal of Wood from his first position was opened just as the Confederate General Longstreet took up the fight against McCook to break through the Federal line.

Longstreet's column, numbering eight brigades several lines deep, rushed through the gap like an angry flood. General P. H. Sheridan had already taken his division from McCook's front to march over to Thomas.

Master Stroke by Longstreet. When Longstreet found his march through the gap almost unopposed he turned to the right against Thomas. McCook's remnant was cut off, and that luckless general could do nothing except see or join Thomas. With McCook were Rosecrans and Sheridan.

A mile or more in the rear of Thomas' right there was a second road parallel to the one he was defending and passing through McCook's old line. Rosecrans, McCook and Sheridan gathered up the remnants of the troops and attempted to pass around to the rear of Thomas and come to his aid. But Longstreet thrust his advance westward across this second road also and, then facing north, charged up the height, which became famous that day as the bloody Horseshoe ridge.

Rosecrans and the generals with him rallied what they could of McCook's broken line and drifted away toward the village of Rossville, where the Chattanooga road passes through Missionary ridge. There Rosecrans determined to make a stand. The divisions of Bragg and Wood so strangely involved in the hapless events of the day rapidly swung about from the east front to the south and formed the right flank of Thomas' line. Until Wood brought him the news Thomas didn't know that the troops climbing the southern slope of Horseshoe ridge were Confederates and not the re-enforcements he had asked for from McCook. Here was a peril greater than that on his left flank. He must fight in three directions—north, east and south.

Death Grapple on Horseshoe Ridge.

The eager rush of Longstreet's men was first checked by Wood's line. The river of blood was rechristened. But the Confederate line was endless, their battalions inexhaustible. They passed beyond Wood's flank and stormed Snodgrass hill, squarely in the rear of Thomas' line at the breastworks, and captured his headquarters. It was past midday when Longstreet's men at last came to a halt on the crest of Horseshoe ridge. The Confederate line now described three-quarters of a circle. Thomas was almost surrounded.

Fortunately, at this time the Confederates made a fresh charge on Thomas' north front and were repulsed with awful slaughter. Not knowing how near the victory was, these beaten troops fell back and gave up to Thomas the road to Chickamauga. Three Federal brigades rushed at double quick from the left to the right, now less than a mile apart, ready to meet any fresh outbreak of Longstreet. The last card in Thomas' hand had been played, his last man put in to save the army from being surrounded.

A gap less than a mile in length remained to be covered by the Confederates to make their circle complete, and they were rushing in from two directions. Longstreet was forming his ranks of gray upon a spur of Horseshoe ridge to drive the charge home. His guns were unlimbering on a hill where they could rake Thomas' line lengthwise. If Longstreet's men closed the narrow gap behind Thomas the way of retreat would be shut—the road to Chattanooga through the mountain pass at Rossville. Back on the Rossville road, four miles from the battlefield, General Granger's reserve corps had been stationed some days before to guard the rear of the Federal army.

Reserves Save the Day.

Throughout the morning of the 20th the roar of battle warned Granger of a fierce struggle on Thomas' line. He waited impatiently until 11 o'clock, scanning the region with his field-glass. Then he declared, with an oath, "I'm going to Thomas, orders or no orders," and started with two brigades. Granger grasped Thomas by the hand as he stood anxiously watching Longstreet's swelling ranks on Horseshoe ridge.

No time was wasted maneuvering. At the command "Right face; forward march," the brigades wheeled into line with their division commander, General J. B. Steedman, at their head. The enemy met the charge with shell and canister and then with a murderous rifle fire. Steedman lost 1,000 men out of 3,500, but Thomas' line was now planted on the ridge coveted by Longstreet. The Confederates marched steadily up to within range of Steedman's rifles and came to a halt as if undetermined to face more slaughter on that ridge.

At sundown Longstreet's men came on again in a last effort to carry the ridge and drive Thomas from the field. The last cartridge had been fired, and when the officers asked Granger what they should do he said, "Fix bayonets and go for them." The Twenty-second Michigan regiment of Steedman's line broke through the Confederate ranks in their eagerness and were swallowed up and borne along down the ridge as the Confederates reeled back for the last time.

The battle of Chickamauga was ended, and nearly 30,000 men lay on the field killed or wounded. At dark Thomas abandoned the line he had defended with masterly skill and rallied his army in the pass at Rossville. His fight had saved Rosecrans' army from total disaster and kept Bragg from Chattanooga.

will be mailed to Chicago, New York and other cities in an effort to effect the arrest of the indicted men. Thomas H. Smart, chief promoter of a land and book selling enterprise and one of those indicted, is reported in Chicago.

All the news all the time—The Argus.

REFORMER TAKES TO CONVICT GARB

Thomas M. Osborne, New York Philanthropist, Begins Self-Imposed Term.

Auburn, N. Y., Sept. 30.—Thomas Mott Osborne, reformer and philanthropist, also chairman of the state commission on prison reform, entered Auburn prison yesterday, lost his identity, and is now inside the walls as Tom Brown.

His transformation within a few hours into a "vic," accomplished at his own behest in order that he may study prison conditions first hand, is complete so far as physical appearance and his own obedience to every rule of the institution is concerned.

Last night he passed without question the most uncomfortable night of his entire career as an inmate of a cell in the south wing, a fellow member of the gray brotherhood, but the little that leaks out indicates that he is going the pace that all convicts must follow.

He walked into the prison office in time to be put through the routine of entry with Harry Mitchell, a receiver of stolen goods from Jefferson county, who came here to do a "hit" of two years and seven months.

Mr. Osborne, who assumed the alias of Thomas Brown, was bathed, examined by the prison physicians, outfitted in a suit of gray with gray cap, prison shoes, heavy, coarse socks, and underwear, and was assigned to the "idle company" convicts, whose temperamental disabilities prevent their being put into regular jobs because of their tendency to make trouble. With this gang he worked part of the day moving furniture, transporting supplies, and doing various errands and tasks about the buildings.

Last night he was locked into a cell and after taking his supper ration of half a loaf of bread and a tin cup of coffee listened to the musically inclined convicts who played their mandolins or mouth harmonicas in the cells.

He read a book from the prison library a part of the time and at 9 o'clock obeyed the rules with lights out and silence. For dinner yesterday Mr. Osborne ate bean soup, boiled potatoes, and boiled ham, sweet mixed pickles, bread and coffee.

The prison authorities at his request decline to allow any communication from the outside, and he is absolutely cut off until the period of his experiment is over.

Local friends of Mr. Osborne recall a similar experiment he conducted several years ago as public service commissioner of the Second district. He had been assigned by the commission to investigate the merits of a petition of railroad men for extra men on the crews of a railroad entering this state from Pennsylvania. The railroad company offered stiff opposition to the petition.

In order to determine the merits of the employees' case Mr. Osborne decided to don overalls and work with the brakemen on several runs. As a result he found that an additional man was justified and the public serv-



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ice commission issued an order to this effect, based on his recommendations. The convicts in Auburn prison have taken Mr. Osborne's experiment in the spirit he pleaded for yesterday, and little curiosity has been shown outside of the group of men in which he is working.

REALTY CHANGES

Thure Anderson and wife to Linda O. Ring, lot 127 Emma R. Velles addition, Moline.

J. Elmer Nelson to Caleb Forsell and Augusta M. Langerstrom, lot 23, block 7, Acme addition, Moline, \$1.

Edward H. Guyer and E. W. Hurst to Carl M. Karr, lot 8, block 5, 2nd Fairmount addition, Moline, \$500.

E. W. Thompson et al to Louis F. Eckhart, lot 5, block 16 and part lot 6, Old Town, Rock Island, \$10.

William E. Bailey and wife to Ella Ward, lot 8 and 9, block 2, W. E. Bailey's park addition, Rock Island, \$1.

Alphons Grossmann and wife to Peter Van Hootegem, part lot 14, Daebel

Hehn's subdivision, 6-17-1W, \$2,300.

Louis Mosenfelder and wife to William R. Gingles, lot 43, Rodman Heights, South Rock Island, \$350.

Charles E. White to Eugene J. Duffy, lot 4, block 1, Forrest Hill, Moline, \$450.

Ada M. Tambur and husband to Josephine A. Stillman, lot 12, block 3, Acme addition, Moline, \$1.

Edward H. Guyer and wife to Swan

J. Apple, lot 10, block 9, Buford and Guyer addition, Rock Island, \$600.

William E. Bailey and wife to Walter Deuber et al, lot 10, block 2, W. E. Bailey's park addition, Rock Island, \$1.

Edward E. Tobin to Michael Fitzbiggon, east 30 feet lot 4, part lot 3, L. N. Warner's 1st addition, East Moline, \$1.

George J. Hinderer to Guy Hudson, section 23-17-2W, Milan, \$1.

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MARTIN MCNEALY, Mgr.



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LEADERS OF ARMY CORPS AT CHICKAMAUGA.

1—General S. B. Buckner, C. S. A. 2—General D. H. Hill, C. S. A. 3—General A. M. McCook, U. S. A. 4—General James Longstreet, C. S. A. 5—General T. L. Crittenden, U. S. A. 6—General Leonidas Polk, C. S. A. 7—General G. H. Thomas, U. S. A.

behind these venturesome Confederates. Thomas sent three brigades after the running force. When the searching party found the enemy the isolated brigade had grown to be a body of General N. B. Forrest's cavalry backed by two brigades of infantry.

Still supposing that he had a single Confederate brigade to cope with, the Federal division leader in advance, General J. M. Brannan, attacked in the expectation of speedy victory and drove the intruders back half a mile. Then things looked different. There was a whole corps of Confederates backing up Forrest. Finding that one division was not enough, Thomas sent another division to the front.

Thomas had opened the battle of Chickamauga. His troops were on every road and byroad. The Federal division or two of isolated troops which Bragg expected would be driven away by Forrest's cavalry and the infantry corps which had crossed with him turned out to be the left wing of Rosecrans' army planted on the ground to fight for the right of way.

The Road to Chattanooga.

When Bragg thrust his vanguard of cavalry and one corps of infantry across the creek to clear the way for his homeward march the leading corps of Federals under General A. M. McCook had marched away upstream, leaving far behind it the key to the region. This key was the road from the creek to Rossville, a village in a gap in the mountains of Missionary ridge, the single pass from Chickamauga into Chattanooga. But Rose-

crans of Confederates charged past the flank of Baird and penetrated to the state road.

The fight around Baird was Bragg's first venture for the destruction of Thomas. It failed, and the Confederate chieflain took up the mightier plan of hurling one mass between Thomas and McCook to cut the Federal army in two and another to overwhelm Thomas on the left flank and cut him off from Rossville.

Thomas remained master of one mile of breastworks. His guns formed a barrier between the eager Confederates and a road passing along the rear of his battlefield which connected the two wings of Rosecrans' army. The road led on northward to Chattanooga.

Confederates Attack Thomas.

The Confederates threw their lives away upon Thomas' barricades. They ran over his slender outposts and even crossed the road beyond his line of barricades. He called upon Rosecrans to send in more troops to form a new line. His troops had fought all the morning facing the east. They must now fight facing north also or be cut off from Chattanooga.

The troops of McCook's corps stretched away southward on a line with Thomas' barricades. Rosecrans picked up brigades here and there from McCook's front and sent them to Thomas. Each time a brigade moved out another moved in to fill the vacant space. An aid looking over the line said that he found a gap the length of a division between Thomas and McCook. General T. J. Wood's division

were 81 evil resorts with 400 inmates. He charged there was immorality in the public schools.

St. Louis—Descriptions of the 12 men indicted by the federal grand jury for alleged fraudulent booming of "Spottwood Manor," a subdivision,